

# BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 9, Autumn 2005

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

[www.iskconirm.com](http://www.iskconirm.com)

## "Living Guru" myth exposed

Also in this issue:

*ISKCON's Guru-disciple  
course laid bare*

*The new French revolution*

*Srila Prabhupada  
explains how to  
"become Guru"*

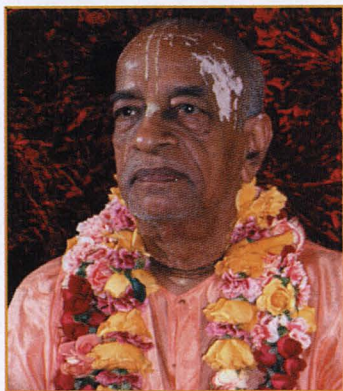
*ISKCON's Bait and  
Switch Master*



ISKCON Revival Movement



# Who is really destroying ISKCON?



## BACK TO PRABHUPADA

Published quarterly

Editor: Krishnakant

Deputy Editor: Yaduraja dasa

Publisher: Sudama dasa, Texas, USA

Design: Evoke Media Ltd., UK

Founded under the inspiration of  
**His Divine Grace A.C.  
Bhaktivedanta Swami  
Prabhupada**, Founder-Acarya,  
International Society for Krishna  
Consciousness (ISKCON)

**For more information, and  
letters to the editor, please  
write to:**

Back to Prabhupada  
PO Box 1056, BUSHEY  
GREAT BRITAIN, WD23 3XH

or email:

irm@iskconirm.com

### Contents Page

Letters to the editor	3
BTP Special Summary Issue appreciations	5
Quotes, Notes and News	6
ISKCON Guru attraction driven by economics	7
Coming to Prabhupada	8
Srila Prabhupada explains how to "become Guru"	10
ISKCON's Guru course analysed	11
ISKCON's Bait and Switch Master	12
The myth of the "living Guru"	14
ISKCON's GBC censures its Gurus	16

**W**elcome to issue 9 of *Back to Prabhupada* (BTP). In this issue, we have added an extra page of letters reflecting the overwhelming feedback received from our Special Summary Issue of BTP (please contact us to receive your copy). We also examine in depth the oft-quoted argument that the Guru must be physically present in the life of the disciple.

One ridiculous accusation which has been hurled at the IRM is that we are "destroying" ISKCON. Gauri Das, the Temple President of Bhaktivedanta Manor, who has been responsible for banning devotees from taking *darshan* of the Deities there, stated that:

*"IRM is seeking to destroy ISKCON based upon their own interpretation of Srila Prabhupada's instructions." (Letter from Gauri Das, 18 December 2004).*

Gauri Das has, however, provided not a single shred of evidence that Srila Prabhupada's status as the initiating Guru will lead to wholesale destruction.

When you examine ISKCON's statements over the past 20 years, it is easy to see who is really destroying ISKCON; and it is not the organisation that wants to keep Srila Prabhupada as the initiator! But we will let ISKCON's leaders speak for themselves:

**1985:** "The position of initiating guru has become institutionalized in ISKCON in a manner that is contrary to the desire of Srila Prabhupada and incompatible with his plans for ISKCON. The assembly agreed that this deviation from Srila Prabhupada's order lies at the crux of ISKCON's most grave and intractable problems." (**Ravindra Svarupa Das, Under My Order: Reflections on the Guru in ISKCON, August 17th, 1985**)

**1987:** "The GBC, both indirectly by impure acts and directly by confrontation and force, has driven large numbers of Srila Prabhupada's disciples out of their service, out of their

homes, and out of ISKCON... By allowing, advocating, taking part in, perpetuating, and defending these and other forms of contamination and decay, the members of the GBC have brought the ultimate managing authority of the entire International Society for Krishna Consciousness to a state of disrepute and pollution." (**Jayadvaita Swami, Several Grievances Against the Members of the GBC, March 5th, 1987**)

**1996:** "FACT: The ISKCON GBC has supported even fallen gurus and tried to paper over their falldowns. ISKCON gurus have usurped and misused money, and diverted other ISKCON resources for their own personal prestige and sense gratification. ISKCON gurus have had illicit sexual intercourse with both women and men, and possibly children as well." (**Jayadvaita Swami, Where the Ritvik People are Right, 1996**)

**2000:** "The GBC (and ISKCON) still needs to atone for its sins and its offenses" (**Ravindra Svarupa Das, GBC memo, May 2000**)

**2000:** "I can see that soon after Srila Prabhupada's disappearance we took it for granted that Srila Prabhupada is not here any more - like any other mortal, as he left his body, he is no more. I very strongly feel that this is the greatest mistake we have made. And as a result, ISKCON today is in such a critical condition." (**Bhakti Caru Swami, Speech on Srila Prabhupada's Disappearance Day, 2000**)

**2003:** "...that defective system may have been watered down to some extent but it's still prevailing. After Harikesa fell down in 1998, in 1999 I proposed that it's obvious that we are going in the wrong direction." (**Bhakti Caru Swami, Toronto Meeting, July 20th 2003**)

**2004:** "Recently we had to contribute \$60,000 to the legal case

in USA. When we discussed sending the money many devotees who work very hard to raise it, asked 'what about Gurus, *Sannyasis* and leaders who have accumulated gifted money, will they be contributing anything?' And they were serious because there is talk about individuals especially *sannyasis* and Gurus having amassed gifted money. It may or may not be the fact, but there is an air of distrust... I am sure the IRM would be very happy to do something with this information. Unless something is done this will probably end up in their next publication." (**Gauri Das, 'Financial disclosures by ISKCON leaders', January 4th, 2004**)

**2005:** "The German *yatra* is presently facing a severe crisis... this crisis was not of the German devotees' own making but rather was mostly created by the GBC-appointed former zonal secretary" (**GBC Resolutions 2005, addressing the 1 million Euro debt crisis in ISKCON Germany**)

**2005:** "Some Hare Krishna devotees and gurus, including at least one in Los Angeles, were subsequently convicted of child abuse... said Anuttama Dasa, spokesman for the society." (**Los Angeles Times article 'Krishna Payouts Begin: Society starts resolving its \$9.5-million child abuse case', June 26th, 2005**)

**2005:** ISKCON Gurus have fallen down "several times in ISKCON's short history since 1977". (**ISKCON UK Headquarter's "Spiritual Master and Disciple" Course**)

We now invite Gauri Das to please show us in each case how the IRM is responsible for such wanton destruction of Srila Prabhupada's movement. Until then, we prefer to stick to the one Guru whom we know will never fall or fail us - His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada.

Hare Krishna. Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

**Krishnakant**





# Letters to the Editor

“The magazine really helps me a lot to know more about what is going on. I once again say thank you and humbly pray that their Lordships continue to guide and protect you all for the good work you are doing. **HARE KRSNA.**”  
- Bhrgupati Das, Lagos, Nigeria

“Prabhu, I just finished reading BTP 6th issue. I am filled with deep gratitude for IRM devotees who are working hard to bring this wondrous magazine. Each page of this issue was terrific. Certainly the blind followers of these bogus gurus have lost all their reasoning power if they dare to throw this magazine with pictures of Srila Prabhupada in the dustbin. They have taken the risk themselves to become dustbin worms in their next birth by offending the dearest devotee of Lord Krishna. BTP is actually a deadly weapon of Sri Krishna which will vanquish all the deceptive theories put out by these bogus gurus. I feel so happy that we have got IRM devotees like you who are giving the real truth to everyone, i.e. Srila Prabhupada is our actual diksa guru, not these bogus imposters.”

- Aditya S Rana, Madhya Pradesh, India

“I want to let you know that Back to Prabhupada magazine is an eye opener, only those who want to remain in darkness in ignorance will not read with open mind, for them they are blind, being lead by blind. Please keep up the truth. Jai Srila Prabhupada.”

- Chandra Vidya Das, Alachua, USA

“BTP is an excellent presentation and I wholeheartedly hope that you succeed in restoring Srila Prabhupada to his rightful position within the society that he founded. **Hare Krsna!**”

- Chris Fellingham, Reading, UK

“All glories to Srila Prabhupada. our spiritual leader. Keep up the great work.” - M Batley, Liverpool, UK

“Good work, keep it up. Counterstrike! Hari bol.”

- Vishnutattva Das, Ontario, Canada

“ISKCON IRM is doing a great job by reinforcing the position of Srila Prabhupada as the sole acharya. No longer can we face criticism from the public on the issue of rumours over the functioning of ISKCON. Keep up the great work!”

- Suvesh Kumar, Bangalore, India

“Down in SA Hare Krsna devotees are more afraid of the Gurus. And these mad gurus are making money out of devotees.”

- Manjula Amtha, Port Elizabeth, South Africa

“I would like a free copy of ‘The Final Order’. Big thank you for the circulation of the magazine ‘Back to Prabhupada’ Haribol!”

- Doyal Nitai Caitanya Das, Sao Paulo, Brazil

“Now I was able to discover the real ISKCON, not the one I walked away from. Thank you. **Hare Krsna.**”

- Inga Kivlane, Riga, Latvia

“Thanks for all the BTP mags. All glories to him - our beloved Srila Prabhupada.”

- M. Koeman, Wormerveer, Netherlands

“I didn’t know that so much is going on in ISKCON. Haribol!”

- Daina & Olaf, Leiden, Holland

“It’s an excellent issue and an honest effort. Keep it up, very eager to see and get it! Delighted about Prabhupada’s real legacy. IRM is a force to reckon with. Don’t worry, Prabhupada is indirectly guiding this operation. IRM will be the ultimate victors. Expand IRM more and more. My humble obeisances to the BTP team. BTP is invincible!”

- M. Srinivas Kumar, Bangalore, India

“Thank you very much for publishing BTP. I’m happy and grateful to be part of IRM and will assist in all way possible in your struggle to reinstate Srila Prabhupada as the only Guru and bring back ISKCON to its past glories.”

- Jayasimhan Subramaniam, Johor Baru, Malaysia

“Good work! You have my complete support.”

- Martin Maharis, Los Angeles, California, USA

“The IRM service to Srila Prabhupada is beyond comparison. Your painstaking research on Srila Prabhupada’s teachings is inconceivable. You’re undoubtedly empowered to serve as purely as Prabhupada instructed. As for the arrogant and bogus ISKCON gurus, enjoy your ride to hell. IRM, you have my full support.”

- Dashika Singh, Phoenix, South Africa

“Hari bol! Thanks for your efforts. Keep up the good work.”

- Michael Wurm, Berlin, Germany

“Wonderful Service... Can’t do anything better than trying to get us (fallen soul like my self) back to Srila Prabhupada. Please keep up the wonderful service you are doing and also let us know if we can be any assistance to you.”

- Radha Madhva Das, Toronto, Canada

“It’s really nice book ‘Back to Prabhupada’. Thanks for your wonderful idea of coming out with this kind of book.”

- Muthu Veerappan, Bangalore, India

“Thank you for your very informative literature regarding the situation within ISKCON. Please put my name on your mailing list. Thank you.”

- Chris Donnellan, Santa Rosa, CA, USA

“Bless me with enlightened truth of his Holiness Srila Prabhupada.”

- Dr Mohan G Raykar, Belgaum, India

“Back to Prabhupada is better than ISKCON divided by groupism. We should avoid guru groupism. I want book of Final Order from Prabhupada. I want evidence of Prabhupada quotes to tell all.”

- M.V.Srinivasulu, Tirupathi, India

“Thank you! It’s good to see the Truth is out there. I was initiated by Srila Prabhupada in 1973 (I was 17). Thank you for sharing all this information. Your most fallen soul.”

- Revati-prana-natha Das, Edmonton, Canada

“I read the magazine BTP. It is good. I pray Lord Krsna to be with you in all your efforts and lead you to success.”

- R. Manikandan, Chennai, India

“Thank you very much for giving truth. We all love you all. **AGTSP!**”

- Balvant J. Mistry, Gujarat, India

“Srila Prabhupada is only one supreme diksa guru to all devotees in Iskcon. Iskcon must follow ritvik system. Because all ISKCON gurus have no divine power like Srila Prabhupada A C Bhaktivedanta Swami.”

- Stavayadeva Das, BC, Canada

“Thanks for the insight.”

- Karana Karana Devi Dasi, Hamilton, Canada

“Jaya Krishna! Completely outstanding. You are of such great assistance to the devotees.”

- Alec Englebert, North Carolina, USA

“I believe this magazine enlightens, updates and informs every thing about the mission of Srila Prabhupada.”

- Raju Bajaj, Mumbai, India

“**Hare Krsna! Excellent BTP!**”

- Tom Wazney, Cleveland, Ohio, USA

“I became a devotee of Lord Krishna in 1992 after reading Srila Prabhupada’s books, unfortunately Iskcon was not at all the right thing for me (1997-2003), since then I live ‘outside’ with my family, happily singing and praying every day! I contact you cos I want some more inspiration to go on sankirtan again. Thanks.”

- Harinamananda, Jarna, Sweden

“It was a pleasure to receive your latest issue of BTP and I was really heartened to see significant progress achieved by our side in this necessary battle to reinstate Prabhupada as our Real and Eternal Acharya. It is always a joy to hear about the success of IRM, which I’m sure will bring in a ‘Tsunami’, which will wash off the Rotting GBC and other Jackals and bring out the True Disciples of HDG Prabhupada back to the helm of affairs.”

- Arun Ramakrishnan, Bangalore, India

“Thank you for sending me this free magazine and please, keep on sending. I received the BTP Issue 6 yesterday and it is the first religious



# Letters to the Editor *(continued from page 3)*

magazine which I have read twice non-stop. I have read only a few of Prabhupada's words for I lack materials but from the few I have read, it is clear that he is a great Master. I would be grateful to receive all the past issues of BTP, The Final Order and other materials if possible, and to get in touch with IRM people in Mauritius. Also I wish to subscribe to your email newsletter for I am attracted with everything beautiful: Krishna's words are beautiful, Prabhupada's mastership is beautiful, IRM mission is beautiful. Whoever works toward truth and supports truth is beautiful. Keep up the good work of spreading the truth. My best wishes."

- Tahir Hussain Pirbhay, Terre Rouge, Mauritius

"Recently I came across a copy of Back to Prabhupada magazine during a visit to USA from India, and I must say that I salute the editorial staff for their courage and conviction. The antics and tomfoolery of ISKCON's so-called "acharyas" and "gurus" have gone far enough and it is about time a voice has arisen from the wilderness in protest of their heinous offenses. Personally, I have been associated with ISKCON for some thirty years now and have watched with pain ISKCON's slow descent into chaos and disorder since the maha-samadhi of His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, whose darshan I was able to have on a number of fortunate occasions. The bitter fruits of suffering, agony and remorse have certainly followed many of the poser gurus all the way to infamy, and for those throne-setters who remain their fate will be non-different in the future, unless they heed the message of Back to Prabhupada."

- Prof. B.S. Sharma, D.V.M., Ph.D., Madhya Pradesh, India

"I am confused. If Prabhupada is the sole diksa guru, then how will the parampara go on? If I want to get initiated, whom should I approach? I find this mudslinging very

'unvaisnava'. Can't we simply try to serve Krsna, instead of getting involved in petty politics?"

- Dr. Anoop Sudevan, Kottayam, India

## Editor's reply:

1) The *parampara* is defined by Srila Prabhupada as follows:

**"Parampara means to hear the truth from the spiritual master".** (Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, 20/12/76)

**"Parampara means they do not change the word of Krishna. That is parampara".** (Srimad-Bhagavatam Lecture, 11/8/74)

Since there is no instruction from Srila Prabhupada that such truth and the word of Krishna can only be delivered by someone who is physically present before us, then the *parampara* continues with Srila Prabhupada. There is no time limit to how long a Guru can remain as the current link in the *parampara* before another one emerges. Srila Prabhupada shall remain the current link in the *parampara* for the duration of Lord Caitanya's *sankirtana* movement, i.e. the lifetime of ISKCON, which is scheduled to last for up to another 9500 years.

2) Regarding initiation, please note that the IRM does not offer a formal initiation ceremony at present, since it is trying to adhere to Srila Prabhupada's wishes in this matter, and form a real bona fide GBC first, which can authorise *ritviks* in line with Srila Prabhupada's July 9th, 1977 directive to all GBCs and Temple Presidents. Furthermore, Srila Prabhupada has made it clear on many occasions that real initiation has already taken place as long as one is strictly following his instructions. It is not dependent on a ceremony as the following statements prove:

**"So anyway, from 1922 to 1933 practically I was not initiated, but I got the impression of preaching Caitanya Mahaprabhu's cult. That I was thinking. And that was the initiation by my Guru Maharaja."**

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, Hyderabad, 10/12/76)

**"You'll be initiated. Any one of you—when you agree to follow the regulative principles and you are recommended by our men, then you can also be initiated. Initiation is a formality. First of all you have to decide whether you will abide by the rules and regulations and become Krsna conscious. That is your consideration. You have to decide for yourself whether you are going to take this Krsna consciousness seriously. That is your decision. Initiation is a formality. If you are serious, that is real initiation. If you have understood this Krsna philosophy and if you have decided that you will take Krsna consciousness seriously and preach the philosophy to others, that is your initiation. My touch is simply a formality. It is your determination. That is initiation."**

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, recorded in *Back To Godhead* #49, 'The Search for the Divine')

**"...disciplic succession does not always mean that one has to be initiated officially. Disciplic succession means to accept the disciplic conclusion."**

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Dinesh, 31/10/69)

**"The chanting of Hare Krsna is our main business, that is real initiation. And as you are all following my instruction, in that matter, the initiator is already there."**

(Srila Prabhupada Letter to Tamal Krsna, 19/8/68)

**"Well, initiation or no initiation, first thing is knowledge... knowledge. Initiation is formality. Just like you go to a school for knowledge, and admission is formality. That is not very important thing."**

(Srila Prabhupada Interview, Chandigarh, 16/10/76)

So the IRM is waiting to formalise this initiation later on once it has set up the real, bona fide GBC.

3) To serve Krishna one must do it through the bona fide Guru. Hence unless one knows who the genuine Guru is, one cannot serve Krishna:

**"By the Grace of Guru one gets Krishna and by the Grace of Krishna one gets a bona fide Guru. Therefore Krishna consciousness means staunch faith both in Guru and Krishna. One minus the other is no good for the devotee [...] Do not ever try to approach Krishna directly. Anyone who talks of Krishna without service to Guru will not be successful."**

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 27 September 1967)

Therefore as Srila Prabhupada states:

**"Our business is to point out who is not a saint."**

(Srila Prabhupada, Morning Walk, April 10th, 1974)

Thus the process of establishing who is the bona fide Guru and who is NOT the bona-fide Guru is essential to being able to serve Krishna in the first place.

What is "*unvaisnava*" is trying to serve Krishna while bypassing the bona fide Guru Srila Prabhupada. The "*mudslinging*" you refer to is us simply reporting the bogus activities of bogus Gurus:

**"Our business is to point out who is not a saint."**





# BTP Special Summary Issue appreciations

**"It is very good, the best yet. It systematically proves beyond a doubt that Srila Prabhupada is the only Guru for Iskcon!" - Bh.Nick, London, UK**

**"Please accept my thanks for special summary issue and hope we can remove all rascals and dogs from Iskcon, for ever. All power to Srila Prabhupada. Hare Krsna." - P. Brewer, Devon, UK**

**"I have read the special issue of Back To Prabhupada Magazine; it is a very thorough and complete history. I enjoyed reading it with my brother and other family members and we think you are doing a great service to Srila Prabhupada's real Hare Krishna movement." - Drupada Das, Ontario, Canada**

**"Great work guys! Keep up the good work and expose these frauds for what they are. They are rogues, pseudo-religionists that have neither knowledge nor detachment from material affairs, which they have over and over again. Sri Isopanisad says, "when they finish their spiritual master business - they'll be thrown into the darkest region of hell!" - Christopher and Roxanne King, Wheeling, USA**

**"Thanks for letting me know the truth and send me a TFO." - Gabriel Lopez, California, USA**

**"Thank you for showing Srila Prabhupada is true guru. I lived in 5 asramas in US. First under Prthu Das, then in New Vrindavan. All glories to Srila Prabhupada." - Jai Balaram, Alabama, USA**

**"I find what has happened absolutely astonishing and I congratulate you on your efforts to make sure ISKCON is run as Srila Prabhupada intended." - J. Abraham, London, UK**

**"Keep up the good works!" - Akihiko Nishi, Tokyo, Japan**

**"This is tremendous work. Keep it up, perseverance is the other name of success. Well truth always triumphs. At the end we'll see, we have actually glorified the Lord and one spiritual master. HARE KRSNA." - Naveen K, Bangalore, India**

**"It will be a great boon to this world, if Iskcon is run as Srila Prabhupada desired. We can have one guru - Srila Prabhupada, and one Iskcon. A united Iskcon, worldwide." - Srikantha Sena Das, Andhra Pradesh, India**

**"I had no idea. I am a bit shocked. Thanks for the info. May Lord Krsna bless you in your good work." - B. Page, Bedfordshire, UK**

**"Thank you for the beautiful newsletter. I will always enjoy reading your books." - Judy Singh, Durban, South Africa**

**"We need to get back to Srila Prabhupada! I am truly devoted to him and support his movement wholeheartedly." - Krishna Singh, London, UK**

**"Thank you very much. Of course I find it**

**most convincing." - B. Roberts, Detroit, USA**

**"Best wishes. The truth prevails always." - Edward Patrick, Lancashire, UK**

**"Dear Krsnakant Prabhu, you are doing a wonderful service to Srila Prabhupada. May Krsna give you strength to carry on this difficult task." - Parjanya Maharaja Das, Lexington, USA**

**"I am a Buddhist monk, but a great follower of Srila Prabhupada's books. Please keep me informed. Best wishes." - Venerable Chris Burrows, Yorkshire, England**

**"I only believe in His (Late) Holiness Srila Prabhupada, activity and teachings!" - Govindalal Patel, Leicester, UK**

**"Thanks a lot for saving my spiritual life. I want to become a pure devotee and assist you in spreading Srila Prabhupada's words." - P. S. Lal, Bangalore, India**

**"You are disclosing the truth. Very Good!" - Guru Das, Hamilton, New Zealand**

**"Undoubtedly IRM is the real Iskcon movement. Iskcon should be run as Srila Prabhupada desired." - Mukul Bhaduria, Jalandhar, India**

**"It was very nice to get a BTP copy, and I want to know much about Iskcon. This magazine is really showing a way towards reality. It's very great to receive your issues and I like to thank you people & special thanks to Srila Prabhupada." - Raghavendra K, Bangalore, India**

**"Thank you for the magazine you sent me - special summary issue. It is useful to know who can initiate." - M. Bell, Nottingham, UK**

**"As far as I can tell (1991) there can be no other bona fide representative, if there were they would receive his trademarks force majeure & they could compete for the fame of the succession; but they cannot!" - R. Hughes, Wrexham, Wales**

**"Thank you very much for the nice publications." - Natalie Derese, Gent, Belgium**

**"We enjoy the wonder words of your books." - R. West, Malaga, Spain**

**"It saddens me to hear of these self-appointed gurus. I recognize Srila Prabhupada as Krsna's representative and I hope that purity and goodness is once again restored to Iskcon. Hare Krsna!" - A. Bearne, Somerset, UK**

**"Thank you for providing the free magazine BTP. It is very encouraging devotees are dedicated to Srila Prabhupada." - Dwarkadish Das, Santa Rosa, USA**

**"Thanks for giving me the details about the issue been raised and the concern for the devotees and should you need help please contact us." - K. Sorathia, Southall, UK**

**"I feel Srila Prabhupada is the true leader of**

**Hare Krsna he is/was a good god-like man not afraid to correct." - J. Rossiter, Hengoed, UK**

**"Everybody needs the truth. We can't all live in denial." - K. Whiting, Sutton Hill, UK**

**"All the best to the IRM. I'm an IRM supporter who lately received a BACK TO PRABHUPADA magazine. I've read through the matter of Guru hoax. It's very upsetting to hear about. I'm really hope the IRM Movement will get the solution for all the matters." - Rama Krsna, Johor Baru, Malaysia**

**"His writings have taught me the difference between being spiritual and being religious. I owe what I am today because of his teachings. I am a Christian but also a member of the Interfaith Movement. Keep up his good works." - Grace Klapsia, Sheffield, UK**

**"I am surprised and saddened that this could happen and is still happening." - MC Bradley, Notts, UK**

**"Thank you so much indeed for your most excellent complimentary magazine." - E. Williams, Comwy, Wales**

**"I just could not believe what has happened. I read with dismay how the "real guru" name has been pushed aside. But hopefully "his" name has been restored once again. Hare Krsna." - S. Lallah, Gloucester, UK**

**"Knowledge is vital. Srila Prabhupada gave us knowledge of Krsna. He knew the best way to make progress and following his instructions is what we need to do." - E. Wittig, Watford, UK**

**"There has never been a time when you and I did not exist: neither will there be a future when we cease to be..." Thank you for the kindness in contacting (saving?) me!" - M. Curry, Tayside, Scotland**

**"As already stated, Srila Prabhupada is the spiritual master for next 10 thousand years. It should not be distracted by material conceptions." - RS Someshekar, Bangalore, India**

**"Very interesting. Not initiated - but following Krsna to the best of my ability. Never trusted Iskcon gurus or felt that they ever seemed that holy. Been hanging in there since 1977 - seen many changes. To me the movement seems colder than it was in the late 70s early 80s - very remote." - Tim Wood, Lancs, UK**

**"I liked the special summary issue of BTP distributed near Bhaktivedanta Manor. Srila Prabhupada is needed even today. Thank you very much. May Hare Krsna bless you all." - GD Tekale, Milton Keynes, UK**

**"I really like your BTP. You are really dedicated to Srila Prabhupada." - T. Thirukumar, Berkshire, UK**



# Quotes, Notes and News

## Bhakti Caru Swami recommends shelter of fallen Guru

In an astonishing statement that will bewilder even the most ardent ISKCON Guru supporter, ISKCON Guru HH Bhakti Caru Swami (BCS) encourages that faith be reposed in a certain "Harikesh Prabhu". BCS states:

**"If you still have faith in Harikesh Prabhu, I will be the last one to tell you that you should take shelter of someone else. That's why I feel very hesitant and awkward to give re-initiation to his disciples. He is my Godbrother."** (BCS, Text PAMH0:10469072, 1 October 2005).

Readers could be forgiven for doing a double-take here. Is this not the same Harikesa of whom BCS stated only two years ago:

**"After Harikesa fell down in 1998, in 1999 I proposed that it's obvious that we are going in the wrong direction."** (BCS, Toronto Meeting, July 20th 2003)

Is this not the same Harikesa who was featured in BTP 2 with his female partner and his million-dollar luxury villa in an exclusive resort in the South of France?

The answer is, "Yes, this is the same Harikesa!" BCS' illusion about the status of Harikesa is further compounded by the fact that the GBC itself, the very body that elected BCS as a Guru, categorically rejects Harikesa as any sort of spiritual authority, and recommends that Harikesa's disciples take shelter of Srila Prabhupada, not Harikesa!

Date: 09-Dec-98

Subject: Notice from the GBC Executive Committee

Status of Harikesa dasa - Tuesday, December 8th, 1998

On August 12th, 1998 the GBC executive committee issued a statement on the status of Harikesa dasa acting as an initiating spiritual master in ISKCON. [...] It now appears that his lack of faith in Srila Prabhupada and his inability to represent the standards and teachings of our disciplic succession and Vedic shastra are deep and on going. [...] The August 12th decision to place Harikesa dasa on probation came with a set of guidelines for rectification. To date there has been no positive or encouraging movement in this direction, rather it appears that he is moving farther away from Srila

Prabhupada and Vedic standards and philosophy [...] We are all fortunate that there is always the security and shelter of Srila Prabhupada's books, his personal example, his service, the Deities, and above all the association of the Vaishnavas. Taking shelter in these will protect you spiritually in these difficult times.

Your servants,

Ravindra Svarupa dasa, Sesa dasa, and Badrinarayan dasa

And if even THAT wasn't enough to show how bewildered BCS has become by usurping Srila Prabhupada's position, we now see that Harikesa himself contemptuously rejects the idea of the bona fide Guru as being essential in spiritual life; for on his wife's website, he advocates:

*"An understanding of spirituality as distinct and free from 'religion' as we know it today. The freedom of the soul and the soul's inherent right to have a direct and deep loving relationship with the supreme without a need of disempowering itself to any form of intermediate 'representative' of God."*

(<http://www.earthfuture.se/lectures.php>, archived 17 October 2005)

It seems that BCS is unable to tell the difference between taking shelter of the bona fide Guru Srila Prabhupada, and a false Guru like Harikesa. This is perhaps not surprising since BCS is himself a product of ISKCON's false Guru system.

For a further profile of BCS, please turn to page 12.

## Oops ... Did I really say that?

### March 1990

“Panditji, the astrologer and seer, had by his occult art pierced the veil of the future and seen a wonder arise, a marvel born from—the 1990 meeting of the Governing Body Commission of ISKCON... At that meeting-to-come, Panditji had prophesied, ISKCON's governors would unite in a newfound harmony of purpose. Out of that spirit would be assembled something Panditji had called “the *dharma-cakra*” of ISKCON”; thenceforward, through the operation of this “wheel of *dharma*,” the Hare Krsna movement would manifest world-transforming power. Panditji went so far as to specify an exact date, March 7, for the completion of

the *dharma-cakra*. A marvel, a world-historical marvel, would be born.”

(Ravindra Svarupa Das, ISKCON GBC-elected Guru, 'ISKCON's *Dharma Cakra*', Back to Godhead, #26-02, 1992)

**8 years later, he described the “historical world marvel” predicted earlier:**

### May 2000

“Therefore the question remains: What, then, will we do? How will we deal with our polarized and disintegrating society?... If we ask why ISKCON now finds itself in such an impossible position, we can only conclude that is must be due to the continuing reactions to our own sins and offenses. Thus, the GBC (and ISKCON) still needs to atone for its sins and its offenses, acknowledged and unacknowledged... So I have been baffled and in much distress... Therefore I am planning to vow that during the month of *Damodara* I will strictly undertake to observe a *Kartika vrata*... trying to pray continuously and earnestly for forgiveness for all our offenses to Srila Prabhupada, to Vaishnavas, and to dependents like women and children. Of course, now our offenses and sins against our children are foremost in mind, but these are just part of a larger pattern of offenses, ultimately to Prabhupada.”

(Ravindra Svarupa Das, ISKCON GBC-elected Guru, and GBC Chairman 2000, GBC Memo, May 2000)

## Ritvik “justified”

Ever think that the *ritvik* position as put forward by the IRM was simply concocted out of thin air, with absolutely no quotes to support it from Srila Prabhupada? Indeed, this is how the *ritvik* position is presented by the GBC and its supporters, to try and demonise members of the IRM, and hence justify the draconian measures which are taken against them, such as temple bannings and violent beatings given out of “love” (see BTP 8). Well the head of congregational preaching for ISKCON UK, Kripamoya Das, believes our position is as eminently justified as the GBC's position, as both are supported by Srila Prabhupada's teachings:

**“They can find sufficient quotes to justify their position, and of course so can we. What to do? Ultimately it comes down to your choice.”**

(Letter from Kripamoya Das, 23/6/2005, Head of Congregational Preaching, ISKCON UK)



# ISKCON Guru attraction driven by economics

Perhaps the most “glamorous” of the GBC’s voted-in Gurus is HH Indradyumna Swami (henceforward ‘IDS’). Famed in ISKCON for his involvement in the Polish “Woodstock” festival, IDS has a reputation for acquiring adoring disciples. His desire for disciples is so deep-rooted that we find IDS lamenting the fact that not enough disciples came to glorify him on his recent visit to Moscow, as his following Diary entry illustrates:

*“On the morning of my Vyasa-puja celebration, I checked through the list of my disciples. There were over 2,000. Although all of them certainly knew me, I could not possibly remember each and every one. I took a deep breath. ‘It’s a heavy service, isn’t it?’ I thought. ‘But it’s the order of my own Guru Maharaja [...] The next day I flew to Moscow with my disciple Uttama-sloka das, who would translate for me during my three-week visit to Russia. When we arrived, I was surprised to find only four devotees waiting to greet us, three of them in non-devotional dress. In previous years there would always be large groups of disciples, often hundreds, waiting to greet me in Moscow. Colorfully dressed in dhotis and saris, singing melodious kirtans, they would surge forward with garlands and bouquets of flowers, each one trying to be the first to greet me.”*

*(Diary of a Traveling Preacher, Volume 6, Chapter 9, May 24 - 25, 2005, Indradyumna Swami)*

Of course, it is entirely misleading for IDS to proclaim that taking disciples for himself is “the order of my own Guru Maharaja.” There is no directive anywhere from Srila Prabhupada that any of his disciples are authorised to act as initiating Gurus; rather, the only directive ever issued by Srila Prabhupada on the future of initiations in ISKCON was the July 9th 1977 Letter to all GBCs and Temple Presidents, which only au-

thorises *ritviks*, or representatives, who are meant to initiate new disciples on behalf of and for Srila Prabhupada – an instruction repeated no less than three times in this one letter!

IDS’ Diary entry continues:

*“I turned to Uttama-sloka. ‘What happened?’ I said. ‘Where is everyone?’”*

*“It’s a sign of the times Srila Gurudeva,” he said. “Russia—and Moscow in particular—are not the same places they were when you first started coming here. Moscow is a wealthy city now, even by Western standards. There are forty-eight billionaires living in Moscow, compared to forty-three in New York.”*

*“What are you getting at?” I said as we walked towards the baggage claim, the four disciples trailing nervously behind.*

*“Well,” he said, “it seems that the opulence of present-day Moscow has bewildered some devotees, and they have compromised or even given up their Kṛṣṇa consciousness.”*

*“It’s true,” I thought. “It’s happened elsewhere as well.” [...]*

*Adding to my anxiety was the fact that my main reason for this trip was to raise funds.”*

This scenario described above is actually the **opposite** of what happened in Srila Prabhupada’s time. For in Srila Prabhupada’s time, it was the wealthy Westerners who gave up their material lifestyles to join Srila Prabhupada’s movement, attracted by the saintliness and purity of the bona fide Guru:

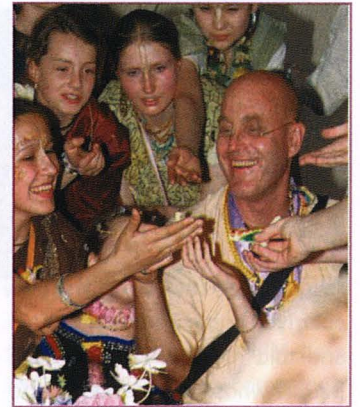
*“In your country, although there is enough facility for material enjoyment, actually they are not happy. Otherwise why in your country the hippies are coming out? They are coming from respectable, rich parents, nation, but they have given up their home, their father’s opulence, mother’s opulence. That I have seen practically. Practically all my students... Here, Brahmananda, his father, at least he was a big indus-*

*trialist, mother. But he did not like. He joined this movement. Similarly, Giriraja, his father is a big lawyer, rich man. But he did not like that. There are many, many students, their fathers are... Syamasundara’s father is big lawyer, rich man, businessman. He is the only son. But he did not like his father. So there are many...”*

*(Srila Prabhupada Room Conversation, September 21st, 1973)*

However, since Srila Prabhupada departed in 1977 and the GBC imposed two unauthorized, false Guru systems on ISKCON, a pattern is being repeated everywhere in the movement: people join as full-time devotees mainly to escape poverty, attracted by the material opulence that surrounds the Gurus and their acolytes. This “green card” phenomenon is particularly prominent in the “third world”, and certain countries in Eastern Europe and South America. However, once these new “third-world” recruits leave ISKCON having tasted a higher standard of living from what they were used to, the Gurus then move on to poorer areas, and the cycle repeats itself. Thus the only people who are actually left supporting and funding the movement are the local Hindu population, who see it as their religion out of a natural sentiment. In this way, ISKCON’s Gurus and Temple Presidents have a ready source of income, while the number of materially well-situated Westerners – the very people Srila Prabhupada left India to preach to – are not joining in the thousands as they were when Srila Prabhupada was the only Guru in ISKCON.

In IDS’ Diary, we see further evidence of this reverse scenario whereby wealthy ISKCON Gurus today can only attract large numbers of poor disciples:



**HH Indradyumna Swami, ISKCON GBC-elected Guru:**  
*“It’s a heavy service, isn’t it?”*

*“A few hours later, we landed in Kazan, the capital of the Republic of Tatarstan. There was a large group of devotees greeting us at the airport with a big kirtan. The arrival hall was resounding with the holy names, and devotees rushed forward with garlands and flowers. It reminded me of the old days in Moscow.*

*Uttama-sloka winked at me. “Kazan’s not as opulent as Moscow,” he said.”*

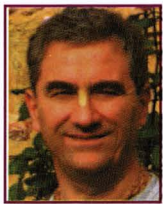
The fact that ISKCON has become a “polarized and disintegrating society” (see page 6), when we are told by the GBC that there are now 80 “as-good-as-God” Gurus like Indradyumna Swami on the planet who have replaced Srila Prabhupada, is just further proof that the current Guru system in ISKCON has no potency; and that is not surprising when this very Guru system is completely unauthorized and in direct disobedience to Srila Prabhupada’s instructions.



**Srila Prabhupada:**  
**ISKCON’s real attraction**



# Coming to Prabhupada - The new French



By  
**Anandamoya  
Das**  
FRANCE

Everything started for me in 1969. I was still in primary school when one day my brother arrived home from High School and told me that he met some people whose occupation was to spread ancient spiritual knowledge throughout the world. They were members of a worldwide organization called ISKCON, or the Hare Krishnas, and he began to recite to me a few words which he already knew by heart from the introduction in a book called the *Sri Isopanishad*. This was my first encounter with the Absolute Truth, and the words in the book impressed me so much that when I reached High School age I had a great hope in my heart to meet these "Hare Krishna" people.

But I had to wait about 10 years before meeting them. It was in 1977, when they knocked on my door! They gave me the first volume of the *Krsna* book. I start to read it, and the story was very pleasing, but when I reached the passage where the evil King Kamsa sent his men to kill the babies, I found it was like the New Testament story, and since I was in a kind of rebellion towards everything which has something to do with religion, I closed that book and put it on my shelf. However, Krishna never gives up! One day, I came across a boy reading the *Bhagavad-gita*, and he explained how he was consciously trying

to follow its tenets properly on a daily basis. It was the first time I heard the name of that book, but somehow the name *Bhagavad-gita* became engraved in my memory. It took more than one year after that to meet a devotee who showed me: "*Bhagavad-gita As It Is*". I will always remember that meeting because it was magical and mysterious, with that book "*Bhagavad-gita*" right there in front of me. I was unable to look anywhere else, I was so hypnotized by that book. There was no way now that I was not going to not purchase it!

I was trying to hide my greedy look because I did not want the devotee who was there to take advantage of my desire to buy that book! Eventually, the deal was settled up: I purchased *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, *Sri Isopanishad* and one LP.

The next day I started to read the *Bhagavad-gita* in earnest. Every page I read was a new step in my life. I found myself agreeing 100% with the book's author, His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada. I was a little suspicious at first, but then I asked myself: "*Why would the author lie to me? He is not here, he has nothing to gain by telling me things that I agree with!*"

At that time, my firm faith in the author as a pure devotee as described in the book itself manifested, and I started to follow the instructions in the *Bhagavad-gita* given by Srila Prabhupada, such as chanting the Hare Krishna mahamantra. Without ever having met the author of *Bhagavad-gita As It Is*, I was strongly feeling his presence in this book. But I had one terrible problem: I could not talk about all this to my friends, as they were reluctant to have anything to do with religion. I was feeling the need of associating with devotees in order to share my growing spirituality. So I went to visit

the devotees who had a center in Toulouse.

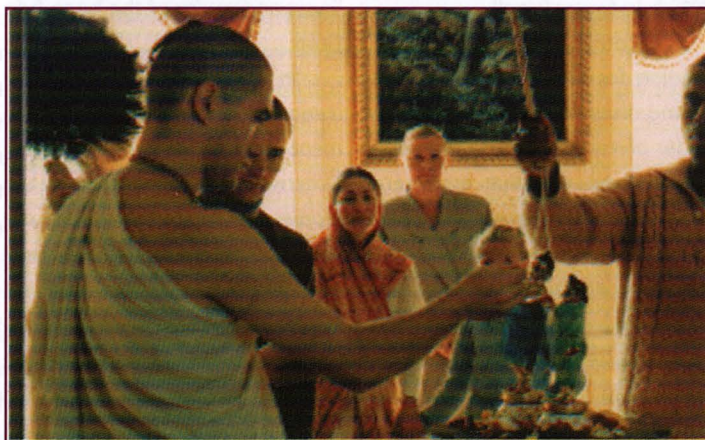
Unbeknownst to me at the time, the great deviation in ISKCON had already taken place, and as soon I came in contact with the temple, I was told that since Srila Prabhupada had died a few years ago, I would need to follow the new spiritual master whose name was Srila Bhagavan Gosvami Maharaja, or "Srila Gurudeva". Being a new devotee, I used to see every devotee as pure, as the only devotee I had known until then was Srila Prabhupada. So I had no doubt at the time that what they told me was the truth. I was anxious to be a member, I was in such a rush to be part of it all, not even thinking once that since I was chanting and following the four regulative principles, I was already a member! Because of that I became, like many, a blind follower. Actually, immediately after I joined the temple, I noticed some things which were not correct according to what I had read in *Bhagavad-gita*, including the behaviour of "Srila Gurudeva", and I once disclosed my mind to the devotee who told me that Bhagavan was my spiritual master.

This devotee's preaching was strong and intimidating: "*What you did for Krsna? Nothing! He has worked so hard for years for the pleasure of Krsna!*" After that verbal chastisement, I had the ten-

dency to not open my mind so easily to the devotees.

But before the fiasco with Bhagavan's departure, and despite my misgivings about the way things were being run, I behaved as an "insider" as best I could. This in fact brought its rewards as I eventually became known as one of "Bhagavan's men". For years during the period of the "zonal *acharyas*", I was engaged in traveling book distribution and administrative back up. At the very beginning, I was keeping the accounting of New Mayapura, the farm community in France. In many ways, it was a nice period where there were many sincere devotees who were ready to give time and energy to help the mission.

I was later called to the Chateau d'Ermenonville, the opulent castle purchased by ISKCON, to take care of *sankirtana* (book distribution) back up. There I lived a temple life, worshiping the Deities, attending the full morning programme, working in the service of the devotees who were traveling throughout the country distributing books. I myself was in charge of distributing the "*Srila Gurudeva Amrta*", a two-page leaflet reporting on the activities of Bhagavan. It was during this period that I got the reputation of being one of "Bhagavan's men", to the extent where he allowed me to accompany him to his flat. My



Performing *abhishek* ceremony in Chateau d'Ermenonville

**"I eventually became known as one of 'Bhagavan's men'... I was then a full supporter of the Guru hoax"**



# revolution

"status" was of course different after that. I was no longer one devotee among many, so in that way I was on an ego trip. I could see that more and more when, after some time, I was called back to New Mayapura to assist in the administrative back up. There my ego trip increased, I could feel that I was being "appreciated" to a greater extent because of being one of Bhagavan's inner circle. I was then a full supporter of the Guru hoax, because I was getting some recognition. One devotee told me after a Christmas book distribution marathon: "We collected millions in donations, and as a reward the devotees receive an 11 x 17 picture of Srila Gurudeva." So I was happy to be recognized as one of Bhagavan's men.

When Bhagavan left the movement, I found myself in a similar situation to when I had joined. I started to live outside the temples, to try and rekindle the devotion I initially had to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada's pure teachings.

However, after surrendering my allegiance to Bhagavan for a number of years, I found it quite difficult to maintain my spiritual programme outside my institutionalized existence, and after 9 months away from ISKCON, I was not chanting my rounds regularly any more, but only when I was facing difficulties in the world. I was not reading either, despite my realization that I had abandoned Srila Prabhupada during my career as a Bhagavan man. Any time I had the opportunity to speak about spirituality, I would say that Srila Prabhupada was my Spiritual Master, but that was all. I was not actively engaged in his service. One positive thing of this period is that I gave up playing the role of a "senior" devotee, and was trying to better myself every day, without considering what others were thinking of me. At

the time, one kind devotee gave me the following sage advice:

*"There is no rush in spiritual life, we have time, it doesn't mean that we can take as much time we want, but we have to allow ourselves to take the proper time to realize where we are and which step is the next for us".*

One day I was sincerely praying to the Lord to guide me in my quest back to spiritual life. A few days later, I received a phone call from a devotee who told me he wished to meet me with another devotee. They came to my house and gave me a book called *The Final Order*. This book brought me back to Srila Prabhupada and gave me the desire to once again resume my spiritual practices in earnest, for this book convinced me that Srila Prabhupada always was my only true spiritual master and that the reason for my spiritual malaise was that I had not properly understood this!

These devotees then asked me to help them in spreading the true teachings of Srila Prabhupada, as contained in "*The Final Order*", and help them to make his instructions widely known among the devotees who were not aware of his desires for the running of his movement. I agreed to the proposal. During that night I didn't sleep very much, and I had a deep feeling that somehow I was blessed. The very next day I started to chant my rounds again, read, and pray everyday. Until I read *The Final Order*, I realized that my attachment to Srila Prabhupada while trying to devote myself to "Srila Gurudeva" was merely superficial and not based on mature contemplation or devotional service.

*The Final Order* book is very clear and easy to read, even for someone like myself where English is not their mother tongue. Very soon, I could see that many people were talking about this book,



The Guru of France and the whole world: H.D.G. Srila Prabhupada

some without even having read one line in it! So I have now taken up the challenge of printing a French translation and distributing it to French-speaking devotees.

One can only identify the bona fide spiritual master when one has all the information available. Before this, we either speculate or we have blind faith, and we know by experience that both of them take us nowhere. Of course, I understand that it can be difficult for many devotees to concede that they have made a wrong choice by surrendering our lives to a bogus Guru, but unless we know exactly where we are, how will it be possible to make the next step?

My whole family is aware that we are all Srila Prabhupada's disciples. Even my little daughter Subhadra, who is 6 years old, understands that to obey the spiritual master's orders, or those of her father, does not require their physical presence since the orders themselves are clear. But she should know the orders. If she obeys the tricky orders of her brother, who tries to tease her through false instructions from their father, then she might do the wrong things. In the same way, the genuine instructions of Srila Prabhupada should be known otherwise we may be distracted from the true path by our brothers who are falsely representing Srila Prabhupada's instructions.

Though currently I live in the South of France, I am involved with devotees from both the North and South of the coun-

try in establishing the IRM here in France. There is a core group of devotees who meet regularly, and we are in touch with the IRM devotees in the other parts of the world in this great revival mission. We are working together in printing and distributing *The Final Order*, and translating *Back to Prabhupada* into French, as well as raising funds for the same. We also hold regular programmes, distribute Srila Prabhupada's books, and are now looking to establish IRM centers in both the North and South of France.

Actually my life has changed so much since the IRM has genuinely connected me with His Divine Grace, for even when I was living in the temple in the association of so many devotees, I never had so many realizations as I do now, and I can understand that I never really served Srila Prabhupada as I do now!

France is famous for revolution and challenging the established order. It is ironic, however, that the real revolution will actually be to re-instate the original established order – and rebuild an ISKCON with Srila Prabhupada at the helm, with devotees all over the world co-operating under this one spiritual master. I am determined to make my insignificant contribution, to allow these "glory days" to return to France and the whole world!

**Readers are cordially invited to follow Anandamoya's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.**



# Srila Prabhupada explains how to “become Guru”

## Stay at home

yare dekha, tare kaha 'krsna'-upadesa / amara ajnaya guru hana tara' ei desa

### TRANSLATION

“Instruct everyone to follow the orders of Lord Sri Krsna as they are given in the Bhagavad-gita and Sri Bhagavatam. In this way become a spiritual master and try to liberate everyone in this land.”

### PURPORT

“This is the sublime mission of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness. Many people come and inquire whether they have to give up family life to join the Society, but that is not our mission. One can remain comfortably in his residence. [...] The Krsna consciousness movement is trying to elevate human society to the perfection of life by pursuing the method described by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu in His advice to the brahmana Kurma. That is, one should stay at home, chant the Hare Krsna mantra and preach the instructions of Krsna as they are given in the Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam. [...]”

The cult of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu is explained here very nicely. One who surrenders to Him and is ready to follow Him with heart and soul does not need to change his location. Nor is it necessary for one to change his status. One may remain a householder, a medical practitioner, an engineer or whatever. It doesn't matter. One only has to follow the instruction of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, chant

the Hare Krsna maha-mantra and instruct relatives and friends in the teachings of the Bhagavad-gita and Srimad-Bhagavatam. One has to learn humility and meekness at home, following the instructions of Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu, and in that way one's life will be spiritually successful. “

(Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-lila 7:128, 130)

## A fool can be Guru

“So any child can carry these words. Any foolish man can carry these words. And if you do that, Caitanya Mahaprabhu says, then you become guru, simply by carrying these words. Amara ajnaya guru hana tara' ei desa. Even in your village, in your home, you can say to your wife, to your children. They will accept you that “Krsna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead.” Then you become guru at home.” (Darshan, December 3rd, 1976)

## A child can be Guru

“Therefore Caitanya Mahaprabhu...Yare dekha tare kaha 'krsna'-upadesa: “You become guru. No qualification required. Simply you repeat what Krsna has said.” Just see how simplified. Don't talk anything nonsense. Yare dekha tare kaha 'krsna'—bas. So who cannot do it? Anyone can do it, even a child. (laughs) Our Syamasundara's daughter. She was preaching, “Do you know Krsna?” They said, “No I have got no...” “The Supreme Personality.” This is preaching, simply if you say that

“Krsna is the Supreme Personality, supreme controller. Just be obedient to Him.” Where is the difficulty? Anyone can preach. Chant Hare Krsna. Bas. Three words: Krsna is the Supreme Personality of Godhead; surrender unto Him; and chant Hare Krsna. Your life will be successful. What is the difficulty in preaching these three words? Hm? Is there any difficulty? Even a child like Sarasvati, she can preach. [...] Very simple thing and the sublime instruction. Everyone can become guru by simply teaching these three words.”

(Room Conversation, 25th, January, 1977)

## You need NO qualification

“But I have no qualification. How can I become guru?” There is no need of qualification. “Still I can become guru?” Yes. “How?” Yare dekha tare kaha krsna-upadesa: “Whomever you meet, you simply instruct what Krsna has said. That's all. You become guru.” (Lecture, May 21st, 1976)

## But don't take disciples...

All these, and many other, calls from Srila Prabhupada to “become Guru”, are all repeating Lord Caitanya's order to “become Guru”, as stated in the *amara ajnaya* verse of the *Caitanya Caritamṛta, Madhya-lila 7:128*. And these calls to become simple preacher Gurus, requiring no qualification that even a child can do it, are referring only to becoming an instructing or *siksa* Guru, as the purports to

this verse from Lord Caitanya make clear:

“It is best not to accept any disciples. One has to become purified at home by chanting the Hare Krsna maha-mantra and preaching the principles enunciated by Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu. Thus one can become a spiritual master and be freed from the contamination of material life.” (Sri Caitanya-caritamṛta, Madhya-lila 7:130, purport)

Thus Srila Prabhupada repeating Lord Caitanya's call to “become Guru” is also a call to NOT take ANY disciples - and we should obey.

## Only Srila Prabhupada is the initiating Guru

“The GBC should all be the instructor gurus. I am the initiator guru, and you should be the instructor guru by teaching what I am teaching and doing what I am doing.” (Letter, August 4th, 1975)

“I am the spiritual master of this institution, and all the members of the society, they're supposed to be my disciples. They follow the rules and regulations which I ask them to follow, and they are initiated by me spiritually.” (Radio interview, March 12th, 1968)

“The chanting of Hare Krsna is our main business, that is real initiation. And as you are all following my instruction, in that matter, the initiator is already there.” (Letter, August 19, 1968)



## IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and *diksa* Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.

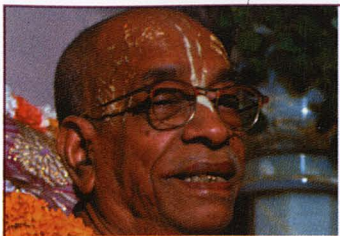


# ISKCON's Guru course analysed

**B**haktivedanta Manor, the headquarters of ISKCON in the UK, runs a one-day course primarily for newcomers to Krishna consciousness called "The Spiritual Master and Disciple". The course is presented by three of the Manor's senior management team, namely: Kripamoya Das, the head of congregational development in the UK; Srutidharma Das, the Manor's Vice-President; and Sitarama Das, the head of Manor Training and Education and the Principal of the Manor's "College of Vedic Studies".

According to the Manor's newsletter, *"The course enables participants to explore the procedure for formally accepting a spiritual master (initiation) within ISKCON."* The course facilitators indeed have several years' experience between them of Gurus in ISKCON: Kripamoya Das is a direct disciple of Srila Prabhupada; Sitarama Das is a disciple of Sivarama Swami; while Manor Vice-President Srutidharma Das has had the 'benefit' of being initiated by no less than three ISKCON Gurus: Jayatirtha, who left ISKCON to start his own LSD drug cult, and had his head hacked off by one of his followers in a drug-induced attack; Bhagavan, who left ISKCON after being caught engaging in illicit activity, was later imprisoned and is now hanging out on the fringe of the movement; and the aforementioned Sivarama Swami, whom the GBC had at one time suspended from initiating.

Moving on to the contents of the course itself, we find a number of rather disturbing contradictions and anomalies. We highlight some of these herewith.



**Course notes say:** A "qualification and characteristic of the spiritual master" is that he is a "pure devotee".

**BUT**

**ISKCON's GBC says:** "When the GBC allows a devotee to take up the service of initiating, it does not thereby endorse him as an *uttama adhikari* or "pure devotee" or certify his having achieved any specific state of realization." (GBC Resolution No. 409, 2004)

**Course Guru Sivarama Swami says:** "In this regards Srila Prabhupada clearly states that a devotee other than an *uttama adhikari* can initiate." (Sivarama Swami, *Continuing the Parampara*, p. 29)

**Course notes say:** "The time has gone by when at the age of five one would be sent to a gurukula and live under the care of a guru and have the opportunity to render him personal service and hear from him directly. In this age of Kali, this opportunity is a very rare one. Indeed, most spiritual masters in ISKCON travel and preach all over the world and you may be lucky to spend little time in their physical presence" [...] A "realistic expectation of a spiritual master" is that the disciple should be "prepared to be 'blanked'"

**BUT**

**ISKCON Guru says:** "The student, therefore, surrenders to the spiritual master as a disciple and serves him, and the master responds by answering the disciple's questions, enlightening him with transcendental knowledge." (Jayadvaita Swami, 'From Master to Disciple', BTG #29-04, 1995)

**Course notes say:** "There is nothing more devastating for the disciple when the spiritual master himself becomes weak in spiritual practise or falls away completely. This has happened several times in ISKCON's short history since 1977."

**BUT**

**Srila Prabhupada says:**

"A bona fide spiritual master is in the disciplic succession from time eternal and he does not deviate at all from the instructions of the Supreme Lord." (*Bhagavad-gita* As It Is, 4.42, purport)

"There is no possibility that a first class devotee will fall down." (C.c. *Madhya-lila*, 22.71)

**Course notes say:** "Many disciples do not follow their former guru's erroneous path however"

**BUT**

**Srila Prabhupada says a bona fide Guru can never follow an erroneous path to begin with, for he is a completely liberated soul:**

"In calculating where to find salvation we have to follow the liberated souls. The difference between the conditioned soul and liberated soul is that a conditioned soul is imperfect in four ways: A conditioned soul is sure to commit mistakes, is in illusion, has the tendency to cheat others, and has imperfect senses." (Srila Prabhupada Lecture, March 7th, 1966)

Thus in each case, we can see that the guidance on initiation given by the senior management at Bhaktivedanta Manor is contradicted either by the GBC, or by the Guru of two of the course leaders, or by a fellow Guru of this Guru, or by Srila Prabhupada, the Guru of the third course leader and the real Guru of ISKCON.

As a final point illustrating the confused thinking caused by promoting the false ISKCON Guru system, the course notes state:

**"Prior to initiation, it is advised that you regard Srila Prabhupada as your guru."**

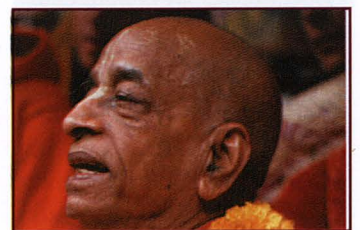
Most people who come into contact with ISKCON for the first time will have done so after reading one of Srila Prabhupada's books. It will be Srila Prabhupada

who inspires them to renounce sinful activity and to seriously take up spiritual life, particularly the regular chanting of Hare Krishna. In this way, they will automatically become initiated by Srila Prabhupada, as Srila Prabhupada himself makes clear:

**"The chanting of Hare Krsna is our main business, that is real initiation. And as you are all following my instruction, in that matter, the initiator is already there."** (Srila Prabhupada Letter to Tamal Krsna, 19/8/68)

Yet the course then goes on to advise that Srila Prabhupada is no longer the initiator and that one of ISKCON's 80 voted-in substitutes should be accepted as a replacement initiating Guru, despite the fact that previous substitutes have, according to the course notes, fallen down "several times in ISKCON's short history since 1977".

This, of course, makes no sense. Since Srila Prabhupada has said that his position as the initiator has already been established (*"the initiator is already there"*), why would anyone want to accept an artificial replacement Guru manufactured from a system that has been admitted to have created so many casualties?! Ironically, course leader Kripamoya Das has privately acknowledged that the IRM position on this issue – that Kripamoya's own Guru Srila Prabhupada is the real initiating spiritual master – is "justified" (please see page 6). But you won't find the IRM allowed to "justify" Kripamoya's Guru on the propriety of Bhaktivedanta Manor, from which they have been banned by the management from entering.





# ISKCON's Bait and Switch Master: Case Study of

In a lecture given on 22 January, 2005 in Pune, India, HH Bhakti Caru Swami (henceforward 'BCS'), one of the current ISKCON Gurus elected by a majority vote of the GBC to the position of a good-as-God Guru, stated the following:

*"We are trying to approach the absolute truth, and it is through truthfulness only that we can approach the absolute truth... A Vaisnava must be absolutely honest. The antonym for honesty is actually hypocrisy, and Srila Prabhupada was very emphatic about that point, for us not to become hypocrites. When we stand on honesty, frankness and truthfulness, it automatically creates a very very enlivening environment."*

(HH Bhakti Caru Swami, Lecture

22 January, 2005, Pune, India)

Readers may remember our article in BTP 2 where we cited BCS's lengthy taped admission that ISKCON's current Guru system is "going in the wrong direction" and that therefore all initiations should immediately "stop". Unfortunately, BCS, while accurately diagnosing the symptoms of ISKCON's malaise – namely, an unauthorised Guru system which replaced Srila Prabhupada as the real Guru – decided not to take the medicine himself, and rather than "stop" initiating, he simply carried on regardless. Not a good sign for a leader who preaches "not to become hypocrite."

ISKCON's Gurus have been continually trying to portray the illusion that they are always endeavouring to put "Srila Prabhupada in the centre", and that they themselves are simply nothing but assistants in this most noble task. And there is no more adept practitioner of this art than BCS himself. He will go out of his way to try and show how he is always concerned that Srila Prabhupada, rather than himself, be in the centre, while still happily receiving the worship that is meant exclu-

sively for Srila Prabhupada. A classic case of "bait and switch", as we now illustrate. [A bait and switch is a form of deceit in which a customer is lured by advertising a superior quality good, and who is then offered a lower quality substitute good.]

**Below we will see how BCS "baits" with sweet words about only keeping Srila Prabhupada in the centre - given throughout in the gold tinted boxes; yet "switches" to worship of himself - given throughout in the purple tinted boxes.**

**September 2000 – BCS uses "Srila Prabhupada Memorial festival" as bait for his own "Vyasa Puja" worship**

"Please accept my blessings. All glories to Srila Prabhupada. Thank you very much for your Vyasa-puja offering. I was very happy to read it. As you know, for the last few years I have not been celebrating my Vyasa-puja. This year, however, I promised the devotees of Mayapur that I would be there for that occasion. As usual, they made quite an elaborate arrangement. I was not able to stop them from doing this, but I made it a point to turn it into a "Srila Prabhupada Memorial Festival". "

(BCS, Text COM3611362, 10 October 2000)

Below we read just how BCS "made it a point" to turn his "Vyasa Puja" festival into a "Srila Prabhupada Memorial Festival".

**September 2000 – What actually happened**

"... Finally, he went upstairs to his quarters, again accompanied by a huge trail of devotees all running up the stairs one after another. When Guru Maharaja came in and sat down on his Vyasasana (the regular one that always stays in the front darsan room), a Guru Puja was started. As the many devotees sang and danced, Guru Maharaja distributed 3 types of cookies to the small children first and

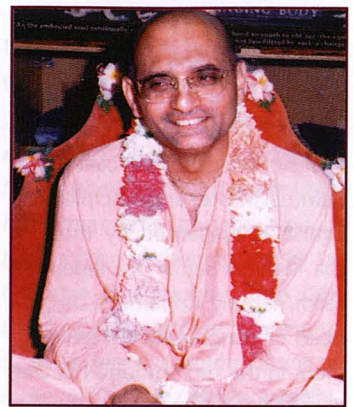
then to the rest of the devotees, as they came to him and offered a flower at his lotus feet. [...] On Vyasa Puja day, Guru Maharaja was in the temple [...] After that, Guru Maharaja went to Srila Prabhupada's Vyasasana to be the one to offer the more than 60 preparations that had been offered for the occasion, including an enormously long cake (it took 8 devotees to carry it). [...] Then, there was supposed to be readings of Vyasa Puja offerings to Guru Maharaja in the GBC conference room at 4:30. At 5:15 Guru Maharaja went up there, sat down on the same Vyasasana as the previous night, but he noticed that there were hardly anyone there! Indeed, only about 30 devotees were sitting there. Guru Maharaja got a little upset with Ganga Narayana das, the organizer of the event. He grimaced, got up and left. As he walked away, he said, "I didn't even want to do this!"

There is practically no one here, so what is the use?" [...] After some time, Guru Maharaja came out of his room and sat on the Vyasasana, his anger completely gone. Then, for 3 hours, so many devotees stood up and read their offerings to Guru Maharaja. At the end, Guru Maharaja said a few words again in glorification of Srila Prabhupada and of the need in our society to put all emphasis on him."

(BCS disciples' account of the "Srila Prabhupada Memorial Festival", September 2000)

**October 2000 - BCS switches back to exclusive "Prabhupada is Guru" worship mode**

"Why do we hesitate to tell a new comer who is searching for a guru that Srila Prabhupada, the best guru the world has ever seen, is still here, and one can surrender unto him and go back to Godhead very easily? When we have such a great good fortune, why do we not take full advantage of it? [...] This morning, during her speech, mother Daivisakti pointed out how natural it is to see that Srila Prabhupada is 'the guru' of ISKCON, still today. It occurred to me how clear a fact that



**His Holiness Bhakti Caru Swami**

is. Still, how seldom we act according to that understanding! Or do we ever act at all with that understanding? Nevertheless, everyday, in all the temples of ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada is worshipped by everyone. Then why do we hesitate to tell a new comer who is searching for a guru that Srila Prabhupada, the best guru the world has ever seen, is still here, and one can surrender unto him and go back to Godhead very easily? [...] Therefore, with all sincerity, I say that we are losing everything because we had been thinking that Srila Prabhupada is now dead and gone, and we started to claim our shares of our inheritance" (BCS Offering on Srila Prabhupada's Disappearance Day, October 2000)

**May 2003 – BCS states Srila Prabhupada imitation is "one of the biggest mistakes"**

"Unfortunately we have observed some unfortunate misconceptions develop within ISKCON, such as "gurupism" where the guru is in the centre. This has already hurt the movement. But the problem started when some individuals became gurus after Srila Prabhupada's disappearance. They were inexperienced and so naturally prone to make mistakes. One of the biggest mistakes they made was to behave like Srila Prabhupada when they became gurus. Literally this meant, what Srila Prabhupada was to his disciples, the gurus became to their disciples. As a result Prabhupada's position became obscured...in 1981



# His Holiness Bhakti Caru Swami

we started to face a crisis due to this system."

(BCS, Disciple's meeting, Text PAMH06829041, 19 May 2003)

## September 2003 – BCS imitates Srila Prabhupada

"Upon arriving...he [BCS] was greeted by a kirtan of enthusiastic devotees. They bathed his feet and performed aroti. After having this, Guru Maharaja said, "Actually, I don't care for feet bathing. What I care about is seeing that Srila Prabhupada is pleased."

(Text PAMH07232688, 12 September 2003)

"Then he [BCS] was escorted to the temple room and asked to sit down on the Vyasaasana in front of two hundred devotees. Sivarama Maharaja sat on the floor and sang "samsaradava nalalidalo..." on the harmonium, and all the devotees offered flowers and dandavats to Guru Maharaja, who humbly had his hands folded and eyes closed...the devotees offered flowers to Guru Maharaja... It was very sweet."

"Guru Maharaja [BCS] asked us to post three or four Vyasa Puja offerings everyday on the istagosthi, 'so that devotees can read them.'"

## September 2003 – BCS promised he would not imitate Srila Prabhupada

"With the passing of time, the tendency of the disciples was to make the Vyasa Puja more and more into a grand ceremony. And somehow or other, I also tended to go along with that, forgetting the original resolution I had made. And then, unfortunately, in 1998, we saw another very unfortunate accident, whereby another very prominent leader, spiritual master, had spiritual difficulty. This caused a very great loss to our society. So

once again I was reminded about this possible danger.[...]But then, from 1999, I started to turn this occasion completely and exclusively into a Srila Prabhupada Memorial festival.

Actually, what we need for our spiritual development, both individually and collectively, is to focus onto Srila Prabhupada."

(Text PAMH07258816, 18 September 2003)

## November 2003 – BCS condemns Srila Prabhupada imitation

"I strongly believe that if the gurus had acted as Srila Prabhupada's obedient followers and represented him properly, then they would not have fallen down. The cause of their fall down was actually their offenses to Srila Prabhupada in trying to usurp his position. Since Srila Prabhupada's disappearance, ISKCON has experienced a series of losses. When eleven gurus started to function as if they were the "chosen ones" who inherited Srila Prabhupada's legacy, senior godbrothers became disheartened and left the movement."

## September 2005 – BCS imitates Srila Prabhupada

"I was wondering whether I desire this glorification and worship. Generally I feel reluctant to indulge in this celebration, I had a very fortunate excuse my English date of birth falls on the same day when Srila Prabhupada arrived in America. Therefore I generally turned this occasion in celebration of Srila Prabhupada's arrival in America but still I could not avoid this worship and glorification [...] now I can see what the simple celebration turned into!"

(BCS lecture on his "Vyasa Puja" celebration, 17 September 2005)

"There is no end to the glorification of Srila Prabhupada," Guru Maharaja stated with a smile in the microphone [...] That evening, from 6.30 to 9.30 was

the Vyasa Puja celebration. 10 young ladies were posted on either side of the hallway joining the reception hall, with flower petals in their hands, which they threw at him when he walked in.

Inside the hall, Guru Maharaja made his way to the smaller Vyasaasana on stage, with the Hare Krsna maha mantra loudly resounding in the air and all devotees standing, dancing, smiling, waving their hands, and singing Hare Krsna. Several devotees bathed his feet simply and quickly (experienced devotees will identify with the fear of taking longer-than-necessary time in this particular endeavor). Then, for approximately one hour and a half, as the sitting kirtan party steadily led the chanting of the Holy Name, all devotees walked up on stage and offered flower garlands and/or petals to Guru Maharaja [...] we all sat down, the kirtan stopped, and Guru Maharaja asked me to read some offerings written by several of his godbrothers. [...]Guru Maharaja said something significant; he told us that he had recently attended the Vyasa Puja celebration of his dear friend Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu in Philadelphia. He recalled that as they were having lunch, Ravindra Svarupa Prabhu, speaking about his own Vyasa Puja celebration, said, "Actually, disciples NEED this." This instruction left a deep impression with Guru Maharaja, so much so that he repeated it to us that night."

(Text PAMH0:10411392, 'Vyasa Puja/Prabhupada festival', 19 September 2005)

It is thus clear from the foregoing that BCS's plan is to FIRST REPLACE Srila Prabhupada with himself, and THEN offer SOME of the worship which is directed to him back to Srila Prabhupada as a grand gesture. What is not realised is that had he not FIRST decided to replace Srila Prabhupada with himself, then all the worship and offerings would automatically be going to Srila Prabhupada anyway!

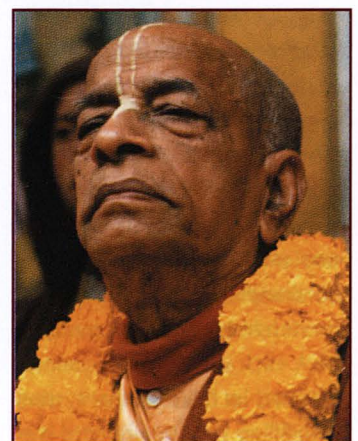
Even BCS recognises this monstrous bait and switch Guru scam as he admits below:

**"With the passing of time Srila Prabhupada's greatness will become more and obvious... some insignificant individuals, today, are obscuring the vision of many and bewildering their perceptions. However, in due course of time the tiny little hills will disappear into oblivion and Srila Prabhupada's greatness will shine forth with full glory[...]"**

**Similarly, when Srila Prabhupada was present on this planet, all those so called pure devotees were not even visible, and no one even wanted to know them, but now that Srila Prabhupada has withdrawn his pastimes so many individuals are being bewildered by them."** (BCS, Text PAMH07243026, 15 September 2003)

Yet it does not seem to occur to BCS that HE is one of these "so-called pure devotees," "insignificant individuals, obscuring the vision of many and bewildering their perceptions" by allowing others to worship him as if he was Srila Prabhupada. ISKCON's Bait and Switch Master is also pretty accomplished at hypocrisy.

**SRILA PRABHUPADA IS THE REAL GURU – ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES!**





# The myth of the “living Guru”

Following the departure recently of His Holiness Bhakti Tirtha Swami, Prahladananda Swami, a voted-in ISKCON Guru, wrote in his travel diary the following account:

*“Traveling to Serbia we visited Subotica where I gave initiations. Some just initiated disciples of HH Bhakti Tirtha Maharaja also sat in at the fire sacrifice.”*

(Pralhadananda Swami, “On the Road” Blog, 30/6/2005)

Here Pralhadananda Swami reveals that some devotees who had been “initiated” by Bhakti Tirtha Swami, attended the initiation ceremony which he was performing for his own disciples. In other words, Prahladananda Swami officiated as a “ritvik” priest at an initiation ceremony on behalf of a departed “Guru”, Bhakti Tirtha Swami. However as the account mentions, the devotees in question were already considered “initiated”. Thus even the GBC accepts that the initiation ceremony does not constitute initiation, with initiation having already taken place, and that the physical presence of the Guru is not required at the ceremony, or indeed on the planet at the time of the ceremony. So then *when* is the Diksa Guru required to be present on the planet as an absolute necessity in the life of a disciple? This is what we will now examine in detail.

## Before Initiation

It is argued that before initiation can be granted to a prospective disciple, the Guru must be physically present on the planet so that he can personally meet the disciple and examine him. Indeed, this is the traditional method, whereby the Guru and disciple would associate for an extended period, so they could check each other’s qualifications. However, in ISKCON the system for fulfilling this requirement was

different, as explained by Srila Prabhupada below:

“Similarly, a disciple’s qualifications must be observed by the spiritual master before he is accepted as a disciple. In our Kṛṣṇa consciousness movement, the requirement is that one must be prepared to give up the four pillars of sinful life—illicit sex, meat-eating, intoxication and gambling. In Western countries especially, we first observe whether a potential disciple is prepared to follow the regulative principles. Then he is given the name of a Vaisnava servant and initiated to chant the Hare Kṛṣṇa *maha-mantra*, at least sixteen rounds daily. In this way the disciple renders devotional service under the guidance of the spiritual master or his representative for at least six months to a year.”

(*Caitanya-caritamṛta*, *Madhya-lila*, 24:330, purport)

This observation, as Srila Prabhupada states above, was to see if the prospective disciple was following the 4 regulative principles, and as Srila Prabhupada states this observation could be done either by Srila Prabhupada or his representative. In practise, this observation was carried out almost exclusively by his representative, the Temple President, and indeed this was the standard system in ISKCON right from the early days of the movement. Somebody would join a temple, a few months later the Temple President would send a recommendation for initiation, and the devotee would be initiated via the mail, having never met Srila Prabhupada. For example:

“If you think so, Gary can be initiated by post and you can arrange it for him.”

(SP Letter to Upendra, 18/11/68)

And then 2 weeks later:

“P.S. Gary is initiated yesterday and his name is Gajendra das.”

SP Letter to Upendra, 2/12/68)

This became the standard system for initiation as the hundreds of initiation letters available on the Vedabase will show, right up until 1977.

However, when Srila Prabhupada was personally present at a centre, then he would meet and initiate devotees personally where possible. Sometimes he would also correspond with a prospective disciple beforehand before the initiation. But in most cases, the pattern was initiation via the mail following recommendation from the Temple President, without any contact with the prospective disciple himself.

## During Initiation

Now though we have seen that disciples were initiated sight unseen, simply on recommendation of the Temple President via the mail, Srila Prabhupada was physically required to be on the planet, to accept and initiate the prospective disciple, even if it was done via the mail.

However, within the *ritvik* system set up by Srila Prabhupada in 1977, this acceptance and initiation of the disciples was delegated entirely to the *ritvik* representatives, and hence Srila Prabhupada had no involvement in the process of initiation at all:

**Srila Prabhupada:** So without waiting for me, wherever you consider it is right... That will depend on discretion.

**Tamala Kṛṣṇa:** On discretion.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Yes.

**Tamala Kṛṣṇa:** That’s for first and second initiations.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Hm.

(Appointment of Ritviks, Room Conversation, 7th July, 1977)

Then confirming this delegation, two days later the July 9th directive signed by Srila Prabhupada is issued, in which it is stated:

“In the past Temple Presidents have written to Srila Prabhupada recommending a particular devotee’s initiation. Now that Srila Prabhupada has named these representatives, Temple Presidents may henceforward send recommendation for first and second initiation to whichever of these eleven representatives are nearest their temple. After considering the recommendation, these representatives may accept the devotee as an initiated disciple of Srila Prabhupada by giving a spiritual name, or in the case of second initiation, by chanting on the Gayatri thread, just as Srila Prabhupada has done. The newly initiated devotees are disciples of His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupad, the above eleven senior devotees acting as His representative.”

(July 9th, 1977 directive issued to all Temple Presidents and GBCs)

Previously, Srila Prabhupada had initiated devotees by receiving a recommendation from the Temple President via the mail, without any contact with the prospective disciple being necessary. Now even this acceptance was to be done by the *ritviks* he had delegated for this task.

So it is clear that giving initiation does not require the physical presence of the spiritual master, since Srila Prabhupada specifically set up a system shortly before he departed to allow initiation to be granted on his behalf without his physical involvement.

## After Initiation

Following initiation, it is accepted that the *diksa* Guru may also not be physically present:

“Sometimes a *diksa-guru* is not present always. Therefore one can take learning, instruction, from an advanced devotee. That is called the *siksha-guru*.”

(SP Lecture, 4/7/74)



And of course this has been the case in practise also, since none of Srila Prabhupada's disciples have had his personal association for the last 28 years, and many of them never met him at all even when Srila Prabhupada was physically present on the planet.

### Summary

So both by teaching and practise, we can see that there is no absolute necessity for the *diksa* Guru to be physically present, either before, during or after initiation. And this is the mark of an *acarya*, he teaches by example. Hence there will never be any contradiction between his teaching and example. So he never met the majority of his disciples at any time, and also gave instructions explaining how this was permissible, since he could use representatives to take care of all the functions required before, during and after initiation.

So even though these points are clear, both via teachings and example, still the myth that the Guru must in all cases be "living" or physically present on the planet in the life of the disciple is probably the most widely prevalent myth in ISKCON today. We will examine below some of the common mis-conceptions that have contributed to this myth.

### Common Misconceptions

#### a) "Srila Prabhupada taught many times we need a 'living' Guru"

Actually the term "living Guru" or "living spiritual master" is never used, not even once, by Srila Prabhupada. On the contrary, many times Srila Prabhupada stated the opposite, e.g.: "What we have heard from the spiritual master, that is living." (Lecture, 13/1/69) And indeed, the one time it was used by his disciple, Srila Prabhupada reacted strongly, pointing out that the Guru is always living, giving the example of Lord Jesus Christ:

**Srila Prabhupada:** When you read the Bible, you are following the spiritual master. How can you say "without a spiritual master"? As soon as you read the Bible, that means you are following the instruction of Lord Jesus Christ. That means you are following the spiritual master. So where is the opportunity of being without the spiritual master?

**Madhudvisa:** I was referring to a living spiritual master.

**Srila Prabhupada:** Spiritual master is not the question of... Spiritual master is eternal. Spiritual master is eternal. (SP Lecture, Seattle, 2/10/68)

One may argue that though all spiritual personalities are "living" in this sense, still we do not accept Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Sarasvati Maharaja as our *diksa* Guru. No, because Srila Prabhupada is the current link. And if all spiritual personalities are "living" anyway, then to say that Srila Prabhupada is not a "living Guru" obviously cannot be a bona fide reason as to why he is no longer the current representative of the Gaudiya Vaisnava *sampradaya*. For this we would need an authorised successor, which of course Srila Prabhupada never gave.

#### b) "Unless the spiritual master is physically present, how will he be able to chastise us and instruct us?"

As we have seen, this argument is rendered useless by the simple fact that the very persons who are offering this argument, the unauthorised ISKCON Gurus hunting for new disciples, themselves have not had any "living Guru" to chastise or instruct them for the last 28 years. If they have not needed such a physically present Guru for almost 30 years, why do we?

Ironically, the argument that Srila Prabhupada needs to be

physically present in order to be able to personally guide us, has already been accepted by the GBC as being false. For they have said that Srila Prabhupada will always be our pre-eminent *siksa* Guru:

"Of course Srila Prabhupada should be given exceptional respect as the Founder-Acarya and preeminent *siksa* guru of all members of ISKCON." (GBC Resolutions, 1999)

So it is already accepted by the GBC that in order to impart instruction and give us the highest *siksa*, Srila Prabhupada does not need to be physically present on the planet. For Srila Prabhupada is not just any *siksa* Guru, but the "preeminent" *siksa* Guru!

#### c) "Bhagavad-gita 4:34 states we must approach and inquire from the Guru. How can we do that unless he is 'living'?"

*Bhagavad-gita* 4:34 actually states:

"Just try to learn the truth by approaching a spiritual master. Inquire from him submissively and render service unto him. The self-realized soul can impart knowledge unto you because he has seen the truth."

And the purport to this verse, explains that this process is applicable to the DISCIPLE:

"One must be able to pass the test of the spiritual master, and when he sees the genuine desire of the disciple, he automatically blesses the disciple with genuine spiritual understanding. [...] A bona fide spiritual master is by nature very kind toward the disciple." (Purport, *Bhagavad-gita*, 4:34)

So as already explained above, pray tell us how Srila Prabhupada's disciples have been "approaching" and "inquiring" from Srila Prabhupada for the last 28 years, if this verse is speaking only of a

physically present spiritual master?

#### d) "Srila Prabhupada states we must accept the 'Physical' spiritual master."

Yes, he does. For he states that we cannot accept only the non-physical supersoul as the spiritual master, but rather we must also accept the spiritual master who comes out in a physical form. Otherwise there would be no need for any spiritual master to have manifested on the planet in a bodily form:

"Because Krsna is situated in everyone's heart. Actually, He is the spiritual master, *caitya-guru*. So in order to help us, He comes out as physical spiritual master."

(SP Lecture, 28/5/74)

"Therefore God is called *caitya-guru*, the spiritual master within the heart. And the physical spiritual master is God's mercy."

(SP Room Conversation, 23/5/74)

And Srila Prabhupada is the current link in that *parampara* of externally manifested physical spiritual masters whom we must accept; we cannot rely only on the supersoul. However, as we have seen above, the physical spiritual master does not always need to be physically present before the disciple, either before, during or after the initiation.

#### e) "But if the Guru is on the planet, physical interactive communication with him is at least POSSIBLE."

Yes it is, but having established that such communication is not necessary, the mere possibility of it cannot be necessary either. It is illogical to argue that though it is not necessary to have interactive communication with the Guru, it is necessary to have the possibility to do that which does not need to be done!

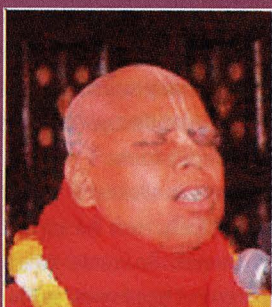
**Srila Prabhupada is ISKCON's real living Guru!**



# ISKCON's GBC Censures Its Gurus

A hoax by definition has no substance, built as it is on a foundation of lies and fabrication. One of the most obvious pieces of evidence that we are dealing with a Guru hoax in ISKCON is the fact that the Hare Krishna movement's governing body, the Governing Body Commission (GBC), has unauthorisedly manufactured 80 "as-good-as-God" Gurus to replace ISKCON's real Guru Srila Prabhupada; and then censured these 'divine' personalities for deviant conduct. After receiving these censures, the Gurus then continue on in more or less the same fashion, accepting worship and disciples meant exclusively for Srila Prabhupada. The irony of all this is that Srila Prabhupada states that an empowered Acarya (Guru or Spiritual Master) is not subject to any disciplinary procedures - for the simple reason that he is a liberated soul.

## ISKCON GBC Contradicts ISKCON Founder-Acarya!



### GBC censures GBC-elected Guru Lokanath Swami:

"In 1993 when the GBC chairman became aware of the incident and appointed a committee to deal with the issue, Lokanath Swami (Swami x) was also **told to stop all initiations...** in 1996 after Gour Purnima, he was allowed to begin accepting disciples again" (Bir Krishna Goswami)

### His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON Founder-Acarya:

*"It is an offense to consider an empowered Vaisnava an object of disciplinary action. It is offensive to try to give him advice or to correct him."*

(Nectar of Instruction, Text 7, purport)

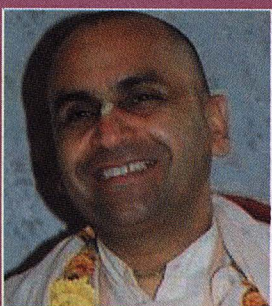


### GBC censures GBC-elected Guru Navayogendra Swami:

"THAT, for reasons stated in resolution 302 (above), **Navayogendra Swami is hereby placed on probation as an initiating guru.**

He shall not give initiation and the others terms of probation shall be set by the Executivite Committee during the course of the year." (GBC Resolutions 1999)

*"As Hari is not subject to mundane rules and regulations, the spiritual master empowered by Him is also not subject."* (Sri Caitanya-caritamrta, Madhya-lila 10.136, purport)



That the GBC Body is pleased to restore Navayogendra Swami to full good standing provided that: Navayogendra Swami signs a letter stating he

1. renounces all connections with the Ritvik Ideology [...]

Upon compliance with these guidelines he will be reinstated as an ISKCON member in good standing, with the following conditions:

**He is prohibited from initiating disciples for one year after compliance with this resolution.** (GBC Resolution 603, 2002)

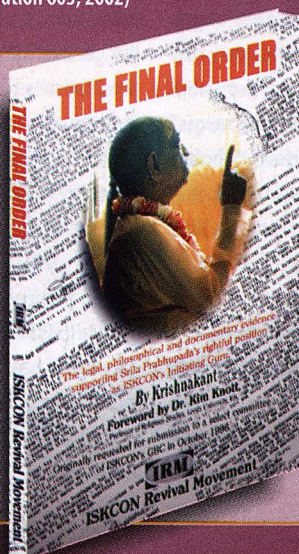
## ENLIGHTENMENT:

The solution to all this ISKCON Guru confusion is clearly explained in the book **"The Final Order"**.

To receive a **FREE** copy, please email us at: [irm@iskconirm.com](mailto:irm@iskconirm.com)

or fill out the enclosed reply card

or write to our address given on page 2.



## THE BOOK THE GBC DOES NOT WANT YOU TO READ!

*"I hope this book will be read carefully and discussed widely because the profound issues it raises demand consideration at all levels. Every devotee has a real stake in the matter."*

**From the Foreword by Professor Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies, Leeds University, UK**